



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Patrick Poveda

Title of Invention: **FORMING OF CLOSE THIN TRENCHES**

Serial Number: 10/717,286


Filing Date: November 19, 2003

Examiner/Unit: David S. Blum/2813

Attorney Docket No.: 2269-011-03

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MS ISSUE FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23rd day of September, 2005.


Signature

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

September 23, 2005

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the Notice of Allowability in this case mailed June 24, 2005, the Applicants, acting through their attorney, comment as follows. The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-14. The Applicants do not necessarily agree, however, with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, and respectfully submit that the claims may be allowable for other reasons. Moreover, it should be noted that it is the overall combination of elements recited in each claim that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and thus allowable.

While the combinations of elements recited in claims 1-14 are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may

be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicants may elect to pursue such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, such as those in cancelled claims 15-21, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding as appropriate.

Also enclosed is a Certified Copy of the Priority Document. Although the Patent Office indicated that a Certified Copy had already been received, we believe that to be an error as we have not yet submitted a Certified Copy. Therefore, we have included this Certified Copy to complete the file.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this document, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's attorney, Paul F. Rusyn, at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 23rd day of September, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP


Paul F. Rusyn
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,118
155-108th Avenue N.E., Ste. 350
Bellevue, WA 98004-5973
(425) 455-5575